

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 8, 9 and 11-18 are pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 6, 7 and 10 were previously canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 15-18 are newly added. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

It is noted with appreciation that the Office Action has allowed claims 5, 8, 9 and 11-14.

Claim 1 has been amended to depend from allowed claim 5. Therefore, amended claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-4 are allowable. Newly added claims 15-18 have the same language as amended claim 1 and dependent claims 2-4 and are dependent on allowed claim 11. Therefore, newly added claims 15-18 are allowable.

The Office Action requires a new oath or declaration because the original declaration is defective. Applicant is still trying to contact the inventor for signature and will supply a new declaration in the near future. It is respectfully requested that this requirement be deferred since the inventor is located in a foreign country.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as unpatentable over UK Patent Application No. 2,296,309 to O'Hara et al., hereafter O'Hara, in view of Belgian Patent No. 669,967 to De Bruyne, hereafter to De Bruyne.

This rejection is obviated by the amendment that makes claim 1 dependent on allowed claim 5. Therefore, amended claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-4 are allowable.

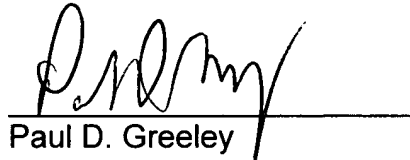
For the reason set forth above, it is submitted that the rejection of claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is obviated by the amendment and should be withdrawn.

Newly presented claims 15-18 are dependent on allowed claim 11 and, therefore, are allowable.

Noting that claims 5, 8, 9 and 11-14 are allowed, it is respectfully requested for the reasons set forth above that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) be withdrawn, that claims 1-4 and 15-18 be allowed and that this application be passed to issue.

Respectfully Submitted,

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